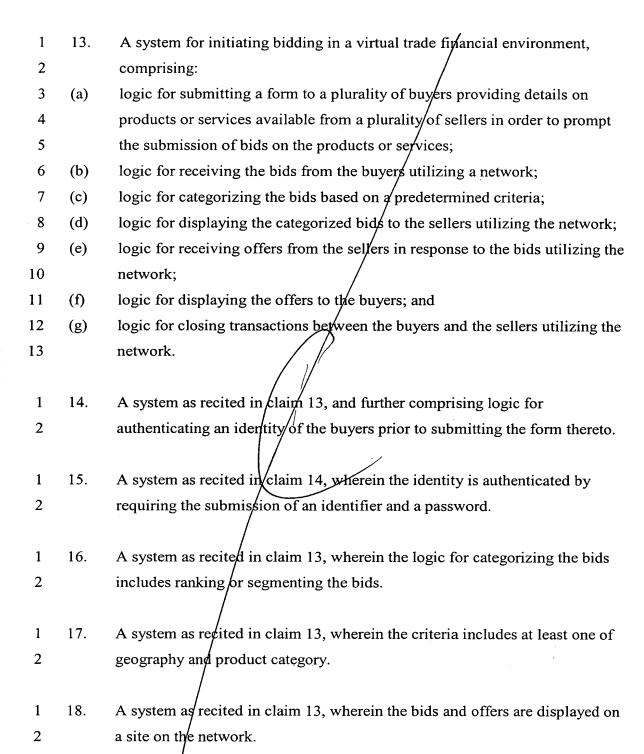
2

a site on the network.

CLAIMS

		What is claimed is:	
4	S1	> .	A method for initiating bidding in a virtual trade francial environment, comprising the steps of:
The state of the s	3	(a)	submitting a form to a plurality of buyers providing details on products or
	4	(4)	services available from a plurality of sellers in order to prompt the
	5		submission of bids on the products or services;
	6	(b)	receiving the bids from the buyers utilizing a network;
	7	(c)	categorizing the bids based on a predetermined criteria;
	8	(d)	displaying the categorized bids to the sellers utilizing the network;
	9	(e)	receiving offers from the sellers in response to the bids utilizing the network;
	10	(f)	displaying the offers to the buyers, and
	11	(g)	closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers utilizing the network.
	1	2.	A method as recited in claim 1, and further comprising the step of
	2		authenticating an identity of the buyers prior to submitting the form thereto.
	1	3.	A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the identity is authenticated by
	2		requiring the submission of an identifier and a password.
	1	4.	A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of categorizing the bids
	2	•	includes ranking of segmenting the bids.
	1	5.	A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the criteria includes at least one of
	2		geography and product category.
	1	6.	A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the bids and offers are displayed on

A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for initiating 1 7. 2 bidding in a virtual trade financial environment, comprising: a code segment for submitting a form to a plurality of buyers providing 3 (a) details on products or services available from a plurality of sellers in order to 4 prompt the submission of bids on the products or services; 5 a code segment for receiving the bids from the buyers utilizing a network; 6 (b) 7 a code segment for categorizing the bids based on a predetermined criteria; (c) 8 (d) a code segment for displaying the categorized bids to the sellers utilizing the 9 network; 10 a code segment for receiving offers from the sellers in response to the bids (e) 11 utilizing the network; a code segment for displaying the offers to the buyers; and 12 (f) 13 (g) a code segment for closing transactions between the buyers and the sellers 14 utilizing the network. A computer program as recited in claim 7, and further comprising a code 1 8. 2 segment for authenticating/an identity of the buyers prior to submitting the 3 form thereto. 1 9. A computer program as recited in claim 8, wherein the identity is authenticated by requiring the submission of an identifier and a password. 2 1 10. A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the code segment for 2 categorizing the bids includes ranking or segmenting the bids. 1 11. A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the criteria includes at 2 least one of geography and product category. 1 12. A computer program as recited in claim 7, wherein the bids and offers are 2 displayed on a site on the network.



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